

REMARKS

Applicant has reviewed the detailed Office Action mailed 10/07/2004 and thanks the Examiner for review of the pending claims. Claims 1, 4-15, 19, 21, 29 and 30 were rejected. In this Amendment, claims 1, 21 and 30 have been amended to correct various informalities and to place the claims in a format that conforms with U.S. Patent Office practice and procedure. Claims 16-18, 20, and 22-28 have been canceled, without prejudice, as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Consequently, upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1, 4-15, 19, 21, 29 and 30 will be pending. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending claims in view of the following remarks.

Claim Rejections Under Section 103

Claims 1, 4-15, 19, 21, 29 and 30

Claims 1, 4-15, 19, 21, 29 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,822,927 (Hellenkamp) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,769,951 (Kaaden) and U.S. Patent No. 4,328,642 (Presto).

The Action contends that Hellenkamp discloses an outer panel (26), an inner panel (28), at least one connector (58) that connects the outer panel to the inner panel, and support structures (36) that extend longitudinally between first and second ends.

As acknowledged by the Office in this and prior actions, Hellenkamp does not disclose plastic inner or outer panels and does “not teach the inner panel having support structures [that] extend longitudinally between first and second ends.” Moreover, Hellenkamp further does not disclose, teach or suggest providing an inner panel (as opposed to an outer panel) with an integral plastic support structure that is formed (e.g., molded) as a single component, much less such a support structure that has integral portions that extend end-to-end longitudinally (e.g., side-to-side) and from end-to-end vertically (e.g., top to bottom). Furthermore, the outer panel (26) of Hellenkamp (a) is preferably made of aluminum [col. 5, 26-29], (b) is made up of two sections (38,40)[col. 5, 40-41], (c) is a self-supporting structure [col. 5, 56-57] and (d) does not rely on any other component for *support or strength* [col. 5, 58-59].

Kaaden is cited for teaching a plastic inner panel having support structures (reinforcement 2) that extend longitudinally between first and second longitudinal ends. However, a close inspection of Kaaden reveals that the support structure (reinforcement 2) is

separate from the inner panel (inner shell 4). In fact, as opposed to an inner and outer panel in which the inner panel includes an integral support structure, Kaaden teaches the use of 3 separately-molded components, i.e., an inner shell (4), a profiled frame (1) with reinforcement (2), and an outer shell (3) that itself includes areal stiffening (16). Furthermore, the inner and the outer panels of Kaaden are not detachably connected to one another, but rather are each separately connected to intermediate frame (1).

Moreover, there would be no motivation to combine the structures of Hellenkamp and Kaaden. Among other things, there would be no reason to combine a structure with a jointly-formed inner shell, frame, and reinforcements, as taught by Kaaden, with the outer double-walled metal support structure taught by Hellenkamp, which itself is provided as the support of the door.

Presto is merely cited for teaching that inner and outer panels can be made of plastic reinforced fiberglass or other suitable plastic material and that the plastic inner panel may support various hardware. However, in addition to failing to teach or suggest an assembly with an inner panel, an outer panel, and a support structure that are comprised of plastic, Presto actually *teaches away* from such a combination by attaching the plastic panels (12,14) to an intermediate metal door frame 16. Moreover the reinforcement beam (28), which may be metal or plastic, is connected to the frame and not to the inner or outer panels and the beam, even if considered a support structure (while still not integrally formed as a single component) further does not extend as claimed. Presto also fails to teach or suggest an assembly wherein the outer panel and the inner panel are detachably connected.

Thus, Hellenkamp, taken singly, or in combination with Kaaden and/or Presto, fails to teach all the claim limitations of Applicant's claimed invention as required under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claims 1, 4-6, 8-15, 19, 21, 29 and 30

Claims 1, 4-6, 8-15, 21, 29 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,741,039 (Habdas) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,769,951 (Presto).

First, as noted in the Action, Habdas fails to disclose inner and outer panels that are made of plastic. Moreover, among additional patentable distinctions, Habdas fails to teach or suggest a support structure of the type claimed. Even if element (7) of Habdas is arguably viewed as being

an integral support structure on an "inner panel" (even though it is on the outer panel(1)), then it does not extend from a top end to a bottom end of the panel.

Conversely, if metal-stamped elements (6) and/or (15) on the inner panel (2) are viewed as being integral support structures, they too do not extend from a top end to a bottom end of the panel.

Further, as noted above and among other things, Presto actually teaches the connection of inner and outer plastic panels to a metal frame that has a longitudinal support structure (that may be plastic) that is actually attached to the metal frame. Moreover, whether or not the support structure associated with the metal frame is metal or plastic, it is not attached to either the inner or the outer plastic panel.

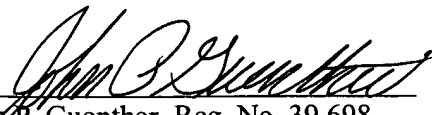
Accordingly, claims 1, 21 and 30 include patentably distinct subject matter. It is respectfully submitted that since claims 4-6, 8-15, and 29 ultimately depend from independent claim 1, claims 4-6, 8-15, and 29 are also allowable for at least the same reasons.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the application to issue.

Applicant believes no fee other than those identified in connection with the transmittal papers is due with this correspondence. However, if an additional fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-3145, under Order No. 209372-81449, from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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